

SHIT ? Si ! Ton A KAFÉ.....

recoil gex

9:PAR 5 I-18 L
ISSUE No. 3 by BRUCE MCINTYRE

LEPRECON

starring

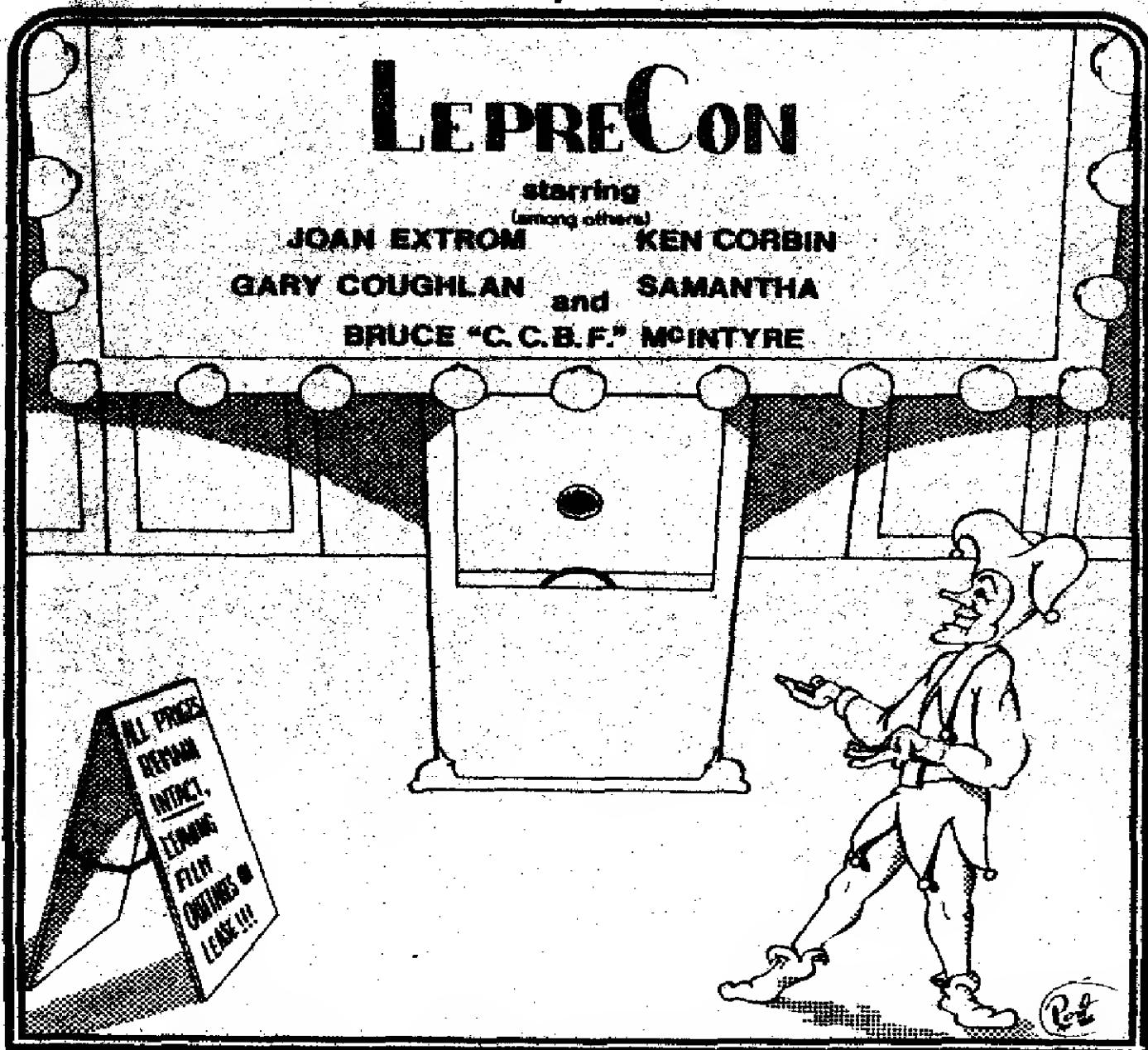
(among others)

JOAN EXTROM

KEN CORBIN

GARY COUGHLAN and SAMANTHA

BRUCE "C.C.B.F." MCINTYRE



excelsior

No. 3

DIRECTORY

RECOIL SEX #3 published April 1st, 1985, in the state of Lunacy.

Page	Contents
1	An absolutely awful cover by Patricia. I was so enraged by the blatant commercialism of the artwork (and no, I don't look like that at all!) that I have sued for damages. I have lots of evidence. There's a letter that Patricia wrote to my twelve-year old daughter, testimony from a guy Patricia nearly drove out of the hobby by threatening to use her <u>XL</u> position to print revealing photos of him, and rumours (I have proof, available to anyone who asks) of Patricia's threats to the Hobby Artwork Custodian. Rumour has it she is now considering taking over several high-profile hobby custodial posts. I shall do my best to stop this outrage. Watch for my new subzine, <u>Bad Pussy</u> .
2	Directory, this page here, fool.
3-9	The account of my successful assassinations at LepreCon. Parts of this article (the best parts) will be reprinted in <u>Guns & Am-MO</u> magazine.
10-13	How I cut Bruce Linsey down to size.
14	My Move Your Move: you LOSE.
15-16	Most of Post-actual parts of our former artist, flattened out and pasted to these pages.
17-18	DipGab-a new feud begins as people for some strange reason, are on my back for packing a gun to LepreCon-and using it.
19-20	Albinoni-everyone NMR's as GM changes deadline back two weeks.
21	The <u>XL</u> Zine-Poll Knockout Tournay-all eight zines knocked out.
22	Baseball-all the widow fall into the pool.
23	From The Podium-who shall I insult this time??
24	Audition Material for the PDP-hit me with your rhythm stix.

Some of you non-Quohog types will by now have noticed that most of the zine is upside-down. This is due to an error in layout that I didn't notice until I had collated all the pages. The explanation for the appearance in this space of that information can only be divine intervention.

Subs to XL are going up. (Up what, and more importantly, whose?) From now on I shall accept only Cypriot pounds.

Conference Call has been folded. Right down the middle.

This is not (quite)a fake.

april fool, eh !

The real DIRECTORY is on page twenty-three—turn the zine over and turn to the back.

Diplomacy, copyrighted by Avalon Hill, invented by Allan B. Calhamer, is responsible for this. For other things Diplomacy is responsible for, see page 10.

Apologies to Ed Wrobel! Yes, I probably should have printed your letter instead of just describing what I thought of it. But I only have 24 pages (it was only 20) then), and my readers have only so much patience for that sort of thing. If you can't agree to disagree (it doesn't make either of us a bad person), please leave me alone.

As soon as I heard that there'd be no postal strike, I correctly predicted that there'd be hundreds of pounds of letters in the mailboxes of Canada within the day. I was right, and with the extra work the posties have had, response to XL's stuff has been slower than normal. I have been forced to delay the XL Zine Poll Knockout Tourney deadline a month, and ALBINONI has been delayed as well. The other things are going on, but tentatively. I don't know whether it's apathy or the slow mail.

And just when we thought we were home free, I find out that Canada Post consists of more than unions for the inside and outside workers. It appears that there are also truck drivers unions, mail sorter machine operators unions, and God knows how many other unions. And, of course, if any of these unions happens to dislike anything at all about the company, and thus decides to strike, the whole system is dead. This, of course, is the latest in labour tactics: divide your union into as many sub-unions as possible—the ultimate being one union per person—and decide that if one fails, all fail to show up for work in the morning. This way you keep the company on its toes. I mean, screw the public, they only pay the wages, they don't actually decide what they're going to be...

New XL Contest! The fellow who does all my printing work is a guy named Les Herman, who has done wonders to put up with me since I started publishing. We felt the coloured paper we used last time worked so well that it should be incorporated into the zine. So, a new contest: guess the colour of the next XL cover—by sending me something of that colour, a piece of paper, a photo (designate which colour), a magazine, whatever—and you could win three free issues of XL! Only one guess per person, as I don't want to be sent a picture of a rainbow marked "all of these."

Deadline for the Colour My Zine contest, and almost anything else in the zine is May 10 1985, but keep in mind that I start typing it all up a week or so in advance. Games will of course be updated if necessary, but other things won't.

I didn't print a stand-by list last time, so here goes: Acheson, Arsenault, K. Brown, Gautron, Krukowski, Peery, Reges, Shirley, Stewart, Torkelson, and Touchette. I think I missed a few: let me know if you want on or off.

Circulation is now up to 55; thanx for the response!

I see the future: three more games at least. Mitch Wageler has offered to Guest GM a game, and Bruce Waddell is thinking about doing so. So next issue, if there are enough, we will start DEBUSSI, with Mitch as the GM. Then in June I'll start COPELAND (the international game) with no restrictions. Right now the restriction is one person per country; we so far have representatives from Canada, the USA, and New Zealand, with strong possibilities of an entry from Zimbabwe, and world-wide other possibilities. By that time Bruce Waddeil will have made his decision on whether or not to Guest GM ELGAR; if he doesn't, I will.

(for Steve Hutton)
Higgledy piggledy
Ludwig van Beethoven
Had a neat tune that went
Da da da DUM,
So he composed the thing
quasisymphonically
Giving the whole wide worlu
Something to hum.

EXCELSIOR subscription fees
in Canada.....3 issues/\$2
in the USA.....10 issues/\$6 cash
10 issues/\$7 cheque
(no U.S. cheques for less than .7!)
Elsewhere.....\$1 Canadian/issue
Gamefees for Diplomacy .3 Canadian
\$2 U.S.
free elsewhere.

LEPRECON '85! THE ARTICLE

The blame for my decision to attend Leprecon (avoiding the monthly Conference Call face-to-face game) at Joan Extrom and Ken Corbin's home on St. Patrick's Day weekend, rests squarely on the shoulders of three people: Gary Coughlan, Terry Tallman, and Joan Extrom. I thank all three, and warn them that they've not seen the last of me!

But the rest of you will want to know how this small group came to work together to get me further south than I've been in eight years. (This occurred to me upon passing the 45°W line of longitude on Interstate 5.)

Just after receiving Europa Express #41, and noting that there'd be a con in Oregon in a few weeks, I got a letter from Gary, with a sub-cheque to XL. Along with the excerpts printed in XL#2, there was a request as to whether it would be possible for me to attend LepreCon somehow.

I dismissed the possibility as being too time-consuming and expensive. But there was something I had to work out with Gary, namely, an XL subzine in EE in case of a postal strike. So I phoned and made the request. He agreed, and asked again if I'd be there. I felt I had to give it a try, so I said I'd phone and find out possibilities of transportation.

Next call was to Oregon: dial, dial, dial, one-rangy-dingy, two-rangy-dingy... I introduced myself to Joan Extrom. There was a bit of a pause, then (Oh, that Bruce McIntyre) she talked about the various people who'd be there. When I heard Terry Tallman, I said stop. Obviously having read my pro-BRUX editorial, she went on to say all sorts of nice things about Terry, etc., etc. Once I had convinced her that I was not intending to pack a gun, and indeed was eager to meet Terry (and listen to some anti-BRUX arguments on the way down, presumably), we formed an alliance, to both try to reach Terry, in order to ask for a ride for me.

I had no luck, but apparently Joan did-a week later, on a Sunday night, Terry Tallman introduced himself over the phone. He agreed to drive me down and back; I agreed to split the gasoline costs. But that wasn't quite all. Terry wanted me to know that he thought XL looked great, but read poorly-his description of me, after reading the editorial was something on the order of 'another BRUX-eucking mushbrain.' I said (as I always do) that the editorial was not intended to offend, but we could talk about it on the way down. After agreeing to a trade, and a meeting time in Seattle, I hung up just in time to hear that the Vancouver Canucks (that's hockey, eh?), already eliminated from the playoffs, had defeated the league-leading Edmonton Oilers, amazingly enough for the third time this season. (Unfortunately, that seems to be about the only team they can beat...)

That Friday morning, I got up at 6:30 AM, staggered out the door with my Adidas bag, knapsack, and sleeping bag (overpacked as usual), and made my way to the bus depot, and, ninety minutes later, I was on a Greyhound bus headed south.

The first problem was at U.S. customs. Owning as I don't any of the usual means of I.D., such as credit cards or a drivers licence, and having the problem of not being able to get my birth certificate from the deepest pocket of my wallet before the half-asleep customs officer said those gut-wrenching words: "Next. I.D., please.", I had visions of being denied entry to the U.S., and waiting for the next northbound bus. It was at this point that I realized another potential problem: the six-pack of B.C. cider in the Adidas bag. However, once this amazing specimen of Mankind got a beep from his computer after laboriously typing in my medical number, he told me to 'go on through' in a monotone drawl that would make an IBM voice chip feel sympathetic.

I fell asleep in the bus, and woke to the excruciating sound of an electronically-produced 'Aura Lee' from my Japanese wristwatch, which unfortunately, also attracted the attention of twenty others on the bus. Looking out the window, I could tell we were approaching Seattle: Inter-

stats 5 had branched out into ten lanes. Each way.

Inside the Seattle bus depot, conveniently attached to a Burger King, I waited awhile, having arrived rather earlier than expected. The obligatory video games were set at much lower difficulty levels than their Vancouver counterparts, as I soon found out, much to my delight. The order of the day seemed to be 'this machine does NOT accept Canadian currency.' They didn't, either. But I couldn't blame them; 25 cents Canadian is about equal to 18 cents U.S.

After a small lunch and an informal seminar on how to shoot in the high 70's at Nintendo's Vs. Golf, given to some tourists from Spokane whom I creamed without much effort, I sat down and read a book, and soon enough I met Terry Tallman.

During the trip down Interstate 5 (except for the new Portland bypass) to Albany, Oregon, Terry talked at length about his feud with BRUX, and for the most part, I listened. He made it quite clear to me that he was not asking me to contribute to Bad Doggie, he was simply asking me to recognize that BRUX's enemies have a point too. While realizing that BRUX can be the very nice, enthusiastic, generous person I know him to be, Terry warned me to treat him very carefully. We stopped for dinner outside of Salem (I think), and had the following conversation (representative of our points of view) as I returned from the bathroom, past a number of telephone booths:

TERRY: Brux must be pretty worried about you being with me for a five hour drive. I mean, Ghod knows what you might find out—

ME: Yeah, I was thinking about that as I passed those phones—

TERRY: Right. I can just see it—Urgent long distance call for one Bruce McIntyre.

ME: From a guy in Massachusetts who calls himself Brux.

TERRY: Collscrt.

After I had taken in enough food, and Terry enough coffee, we continued along the West Coast's answer to Route 66-Interstate 5, a highway that extends from Vancouver (where we call it Highway 99) to Tijuana. By dusk we were in Albany, where we turned towards the coast. Ninety minutes later, quits by accident I'm sure, we turned off the road into the driveway of LepreCon Headquarters, located in beautiful suburban Aren, kid-sister city of Philomath (pop. 2375), Oregon. There was a bit of a drive through a miniature forest in the dark before we saw the house, and Terry wasn't completely certain of having invaded the right property until Joan Extrom came out to see what the racket was.

Upon being introduced to everyone, I slowly became aware of a familiar tune being hummed. I was thus introduced to Michael Lee, of The Concert of Europe infamy, who correctly identified the Mozart Clarinet Concerto; unfortunately well after the deadline. I handed him a copy of XL #2, and soon he was guessing madly on the excerpts contained therein.

Wrongly.

Then I met Mike "T-Bone" Ehli, the famous FNORD. Throughout the weekend I attempted to determine whether Mike's problem was that his mouth moved too fast for his brain, or vice versa. Finally I decided that it was both. I must say that talking to Mike Ehli makes you realize why Terry Tallman successfully defended the Hobby Sex Ghod challenge...

There was also a fellow named Bob O'Donnell, who has a fantastic radio voice, and Ron Grace, an Army buddy of Gary Coughlan's, and, of course, Joan, Ken, and Samantha.

And Gary Coughlan. Gary brought with him what seemed like the entire Hobby in photographs, and I really overloaded myself that first night with shock as I discovered what many of you really look like!!!

But then at the end of a very long day for me, Terry announced that he certainly wasn't going to bed without playing any games at all, so we drew for countries and I picked up the dark blue one, allied with Michael Lee (France) and attacked Ken Corbin (Russia). Meanwhile, Terry was deriving great pleasure out of stabbing T-Bone (Italy), especially as Russia

was involved with me in the north, and Gary Coughlan (Turkey) used the Let's Bash These Wooden Blocks Together Opening (F Ank-Con, A Smy-Con, and, luckily, A Con-Bul). Things went well, and with my successful guess of Bob O'Donnell's (Germany) Fall '03 self standoff in Kiel (I ordered A Den S (G) F Hol-Kie, F Nth-Hol), I got a share of the three-way draw between myself, France, and, amazingly enough, the Turkish block-hashers.

Terry's set of wooden blocks is superior to any I've seen, as the French pieces are not turquoise but sky blue, so you can tell them from the Italians. He also says he has an English board, which I prefer, as it has no physical features on it, just baby blue water, orange neutrals, and unique colours for each country (though Russia is, for some reason, purple). The Canadian board is, by comparison, EXTREMELY difficult to play with, being as it is a straight physical map: I couldn't care less which retreat space is farther above sea level, you know? The AH board, though the physical features type, is less detailed, but has that awful characteristic of being sliced in three.

Since many of us were still in the gaming mood, we tried a Gunboat game to cap off Friday night. My first. I hate meeting Gunboat players in postal games (although I regret to say I'm nearly becoming one myself as my hobby duties multiply), but when such silent behavior is part of the game, it is quite fun! I drew England again (my long succession of "O shit, that's the green army" began the Saturday morning) and soon I was attacked from the South, in more ways than one—Gary was France. But I survived, not as England, but as "The Vikings", a four-centre power of Swe, Nwy, Den, and StP(nc). Meanwhile, Terry Tallman got one of his Russian armies to Tuscany before completely dying out, Gary's France was being attacked by somebody who drew the Italians, and Joan Extrom, after some failed Spring 1901 boat-hauling excercises (F Ank-Smy) decided she was satisfied with her three centres. Except for the fact that it was a lot of fun, I don't recall much else about how it all ended up.

Finally it was time to go to bed. It never occurred to me until I was back in Vancouver that 1 AM Oregon time was 3 AM to Gary, but he lasted quite well under the circumstances. He and I and Ron Grace were quite comfortable in one of the rooms, until Mike Ehli came in to join us. This cramped up the conditions somewhat, but I was too tired to notice much.

I got up too early on the Saturday. ("Where the hell am I?") Luckily, all we played before breakfast was Can't Stop. Not a game requiring too much brainwork ("mindless", as Terry says), but very entertaining, and simple. I was not completely surprised at how much I enjoyed it, as it was invented by Sid Sackson (Patterns II).

After breakfast, we had a call from Brux Linsey, and there was much celebration as we all vied for position by the phone. I didn't say much, as I was both unsure of what to say, and quite tired. This, I fear, probably worried Brux more than anything I might have said. Oh well.

We were entertained by many during the weekend, including the obligatory rendition of some Python stuff by myself, and the infamous Two of Clubs Legend during the late night Hearts game—the only game I won all weekend, except for my defeat of Joan Extrom's amazing Backgammon skills in 1 out of 3 tries.

However, the running gags were by far the best in the wide realm of LepreCon humour. In these times of feuds and wars in the Hobby, we at LepreCon chose to shoot them down with satire. The leading practitioner was Michael Lee. It seemed that every time you "borrowed" one of Mike's centres in a Dip game, there'd come from out of nowhere this West Virginia Melinda Holley voice, pleading "You've taken away con-trol of man centre!" Then there was the 'prove it' bit which went like this: "We had an agreement, and I can PROVE it in a LETTER I sent to Mark Berch!! Unfortunately he lost it, and I tore mine up in a fit of rage, but I have five witnesses who saw the letter...." Almost all of the Hobby was satirized at one point or another, amid much hilarity.

With the promise of a fantastic Spaghetti dinner Saturday night, our numbers doubled in the afternoon, with the addition of Jim, Linda and Aden

Bumpas, Paul Gardner, Stephen Lee, Jack Fleming, and Evans and Wendy Givam. Also, Samantha more than made her presence felt on the Saturday, especially when she discovered that she was bigger (if only slightly) than Aden Bumpas. I NMRed out of the afternoon session (my first Italian position of the weekend) when I fell asleep on the couch, as the game got bogged down when Kathy Byrne called. I'm sure I slept at least an hour, and amazingly enough Kathy was still on the phone when I woke up. Unfortunately, I did not get a chance to talk to Kathy, though I'd have liked to.

In any case, while Jim Bumpas was busy winning that Dip game (despite Aden's delightful habit of grabbing as many of his Dad's units as he could and running off with them), another Gunboat game was played in the living room. I remember two things about that game. Firstly, I was Italy, and as usual was held to four centres until Turkey decided to visit. Second, Michael Lee committed an amazing feat: he NMRed in a stay-at-the-table Gunboat game! This will, of course, become another Hobby Legend, but let me try to explain how these amazing occurrences came about. After handing in Winter builds, Mike started telling his stories about working in a games store, while we were writing out our Spring orders. Like all good raconteurs, Mike was completely involved in his tales, and we were listening and laughing. (Some of us were having trouble sitting up.) Anyhow, finally he handed in his orders, and as they were the seventh set, they were on top of the pile, face down. Whoever read the orders turned all seven sets over together, relegating Michael's to the bottom. Finally his 'Spring' orders were read: BUILD A Par, F Mar. As all of the other sets had been read, there was nothing we could do but go on to the next season without any French moves. Soon everybody was laughing again—at the first ever Gunboat NMR.

To fill in the time before dinner I was goaded into a game of Junta, a hilarious game which really needs actors to succeed. We had Michael Lee, Ken Corbin, Bob O'Donnell, and Mike Ehli. Before long we were all talking in our own version of the Banana Republic's official accent. I repeatedly claimed to be a "védy védy powerful mon", and I would have been if they'd only called a coup while I was General #2 instead of waiting until I was appointed General #1. It doesn't help to hold bribe cards for the Army you already control. Oh well.

The Spaghetti à l'Extrom was fantastique!! Even Aden enjoyed it, as did Samantha. (I think they may have enjoyed each other, too...) Me, after cider number three, I only remember a nice, happy, contented feeling above the waistline...

After dinner a game of Empire Builder was started in the kitchen, and Terry Tallman was showing the lads some amazing new Diplomacy variant in the living room. Knowing neither of these games, I was on my own for a while. I gave Samantha a soccer lesson (heading a Nerf ball), read the rules to Empire Builder and watched (found it different but inferior to Rail Baron), played some Backgammon against Joan, and read some old zines. But what I really wanted to do was have another look at Gary's photos, so that was what I did.

One thing that we all did Saturday night, and indeed during most of the weekend, was correct mispronunciations. I was sure, having only seen their names and not heard them, that Ehli rhymed with Bailey, and Coughlan rhymed with Dowland. How wrong I was! And how often, to my embarrassment, I was caught correcting myself (Ehli sounds like Eli, and Coughlan like Kaufman.) Nobody pronounced McIntyre's wrong (MAK-in-tie-ur) though many have, outside the Hobby, in the past. But the Empire Builder game provided me with a chance to prove that my high school geography course did teach me something. Yes, I confidently stated at least five times, Regina really does rhyme with.... And after about the tenth time I heard an uncertain Ree-GEEE-nah??, I said, "Yer all acting like a bunch of Canadian high school kids!!"

Later on, with people leaving, those remaining played a game of Naval War, a cute card game in which early grudges turn to get-the-leader tactics. Despite early problems (I never could draw the right size salvoes for my ships guns—Terry said I should fire the supply sergeant.), I end-

ed up a close second. After a silly game of Chinese Checkers, we were all set to go to bed, when I suggested Hearts. This was enough to keep Joan up, and since the Hearts game was the only game I won, tradition demands that I tell the story of my victory. But first...

Towards the end of the Naval Wars game, Michael Lee gathered seven large pretzels and rolled small strips of paper around them. When asked what the hell he was up to, he explained that we were about to play the fastest Dip variant ever devised: Prophet Diplomacy!

We drew for countries: you guessed it, I got Italy again. I don't remember the western alignment, but Terry Tallman drew Turkey, Mike Ehli drew Russia, and Ken Corbin got Austria.

Then, we drew War Fortune Pretzels. I could pretty much guess what mine would say, and I was right: it said I'd have an okay game, would last to the end, but would not win. Ken's said he'd be eliminated early; Terry's said something about early successes not being good enough.

It was at this point that Mike Ehli let out a yell that miraculously failed to wake the dead. Not to mention the few that were sleeping at the time! But it was true: finally, after a long and distinguished career, the man from FNORD had finally notched up a win. Despite Terry's protest, we all congratulated him profusely. If there is a way to be beaten by Mike Ehli without losing face or reputation, this had to be it.

And then there was the hearts game. There were five of us, myself, Joan, Paul Gardner, and, I think, Mike Ehli, and Michael Lee. The pivotal hand was this one. I held:

♦ Q ♠ A Q 10 8 3 ♣ A ♦ A K 4

Mike Ehli had been nice enough to pass me the Queen of Spades, and The Queen and Three of Hearts. I won the first trick with the Ace of Clubs and lead the King, then the Ace of Diamonds. When nobody threw a Heart I tossed the Four of Clubs into the centre of the table. All followed. A Spade was lead—everybody laughed as I ate my singleton queen, but Paul laughed the hardest as he threw the King of Hearts on it. With that kind of charity it was easy to take all the points—even at 2 AM.

It would be a crime for me to neglect the nicknaming that came about from the presence of the Hobby Nickname Custodian, Terry Tallman. (For those unfamiliar with this vital service, Terry makes up nicknames for free, changes them himself for \$1, accepts a third party nickname for \$5, and accepts your own for \$15—all the money goes to hobby services.) The ones I remember were Mike "T-Bone" Ehli, which he hates but apparently refuses to change, Michael "Alvin" Lee, after the Chipmunk, and, made up on the way down, Bruce "Muehhrain" McIntyre.

By the end of the weekend we had a few new ones. For his amazing turtle-like velocity in order-writing (somebody said during a game on Friday, "You don't write press in FTF Dip, you know."), Ken Corbin was dubbed 'Flash', Joan Extrom paid Terry \$5 to change my nickname to Bruce 'Canadians Can Be Fun' McIntyre. After taking all the points at Hearts without anyone noticing, I suggested 'Slam' Extrom; unfortunately Terry was by that time fast asleep.

Good thing too. Because if I had had to drive back, we'd probably end up against the side of some overpass. For one thing, I don't drive; for another, I was fast asleep for most of the ride. However, there was one event that occurred on the Sunday that provided a highlight for the whole weekend. Joan, Samantha, and, I believe, a few others including Bob O'Donnell were just returning from driving Paul Gardner to the bus depot. Mike Ehli, Michael Lee, Terry Tallman and I were watching from inside. Samantha got out of the van and ran across the yard until we could no longer see her through the window. Suddenly it occurred to us that she was heading for danger, there being a deep ravine in that direction. We got up and rushed for the door, as Bob O'Donnell went after Samantha.

When we got outside, we saw what Samantha was running for—she'd climbed up on Bob's motorcycle, and was just now reaching for the handle-

LEPRECON, concluded!

bars. That in itself is dangerous, given a two-year-olds reach, but somehow she made it without falling off. Hunched down over the handlebars, she turned her head enough to flash a BIG smile at me, and everyone simultaneously screamed, "Where's my camera!?"

It was at this point that extreme lunacy took control of me (as it often does). Without hesitation, I ran down to the motorcycle and posed, lying on my back in front of the wheel, as cameras clicked. I hope I can obtain a copy of that picture!!

Finally it was time for the long trip back. Actually, it wasn't quite as long as it had seemed going south, but that was probably due to all the sleeping I did in Terry's car.

My one regret is that I lost the distinction of being the furthest away from home to Gary Coughlan. However, I do plan to get even with him in Minneapolis this May. (My calculations tell me I've even got New Yorker Mike Barro beaten.) If any of you think I'm crazy, you're probably right—but to me, all this traveling is well worth it!!!

PATTERNS II

If you are one of the five that have sent me Patterns II patterns, I must warn you—the game is about to begin! I have three out of five voting to play Gunboat style—so, for simplicity's sake, all you get about the names of the other players, are that they are all male, and they shall go by the last letter in their surname: Mr. L, Mr. O, Mr. Y, Mr. R, and rather interestingly enough, Mr. T.

Information on the others' patterns is available for a stamped self-addressed envelope, but, since all except Mr. T are Americans, and I can't use Canadian stamps, try 3 pieces of info for an American dollar, OK?

Deadline for final guesses for the first round is June 1st, two issues away. But start guessing now, you never know what the mail will be like...

DipGab

That which appears in the centre four pages is the instructions and voting ballots for this year's Runestone poll. Keeping in mind Dave Carter's policy of printing anything possibly offensive up-side-down, I want all XL readers to know the following:

If you, like I, feel that Bruce Lineey can do a perfectly acceptable job with the poll, then you may consider the instructions and ballots to be right-side-up. (In relation to this issue's cover, they are.) Obviously then, the border and mini-masthead are inverted. How could that possibly be offensive to anyone? Well, it's offensive to me, because I had to kill the side borders just to get the Runestone press release to fit on XL's pages.

If you, like I, feel that the poll would certainly be better off without the controversy surrounding it (whether the individual running the poll is at fault or not), then you may consider the instructions and ballots to be up-side-down. (In relation to this issue's Directory, they are.) Obviously then, the border and mini-masthead are right-side-up, signifying that you do not find XL offensive.

I admit that there may exist somewhere some unfortunate who is offended by both the Runestone ballot, and XL. But since I don't send XL to people who are offended so easily, I don't feel that anyone who sees this can possibly complain.

In any case, I put this stuff in the center so you could detach it. Whether you'd like to send it to BRUX or wipe your ass with it once you do so is your concern. There are two sides to every story.....

DIPLOMACY

Flowers (Jenové & Set) (adapted from 'Whipped Cream')

Music: Lowell
arr. B. H. Lyle

108

DIP. TO ME

DRUMS

PNO

I used to be

110

Play with treachery

This game's changed me

So much it's hard to believe

ATTEMPTING DRUMS

110 TIME

Mother my brother

I'd slay my mother, my brother

REPEAT TWO

SECOND TIME

RECENTLY

FINE

Diplomacy (to the tune of Whipped Cream)

1. I. Diplomacy,
You made a man of me,
It used to be
That I was quite naive.

Now look at me,
Playing with treachery,
This game's changed me
So much it's hard to believe.

I'd slay my mother, my brother,
An innocent guy, too—for control,
hey! I no longer have morals;
Here they're a burden.

I'm suicidal, a rival
That common sense condemns,
But in Dip, common courtesy ain't hip!

2. Diplomacy
You made a man of me,
What will become
Of this monstrosity?

Don't mess with me,
Unless you want to be
My next "stake",
The latest victim of me.

You'll try to kill me, attack me
These tactics always fail—
'Cause when I'm
Finally eliminated, I'll
sue with the others.

And they will let you, they'll have
I'll quarterback the troops—
My revenge will be entombed
The fall of you!

Larger
copies
of this
available
on request.

The 1985 Runestone Zine & GM Poll

THE NINTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN ZINE POLL: You may rate any publication substantially devoted to Diplomacy of which you have seen more than two issues since April 1, 1984. Rate the series, not individual issues. Rate each zine on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being the lowest possible rating, 10 the highest). No fractions, please. Specify subzines and rate them separately from the parent zine; subzines will be listed separately. Publishers may not rate their own zines or subzines. Sign your ballot and indicate one way in which you participate in the hobby (e.g. "I sub to zine XXX", "I play in game 1984YY", "I publish zine ZZZ", etc.). All votes will be kept confidential (but please note that Pat Conlon will see all of them). Please list the zines alphabetically to make tabulation of the results easier. I reserve the right to tabulate or ignore ballots which do not follow the format outlined above.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN GAMESMASTER POLL: You may rate any GM in whose postal game or games you were a player during the year beginning April 1, 1984, and under whom you played for long enough to gain an objective assessment of his or her competence as a GM. Rate each GM on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being the lowest possible rating, 10 the highest). No fractions, please. Gamesmasters may not rate themselves. Others may not rate GMs in whose games they were not active players during the poll period. Rate each GM by NAME, not by zine. Votes which do not use the GM's name will not be tabulated. Please list the GMs in alphabetical order by SURNAME. Distinguish between Ron Brown of California and Ron Brown of Canada if you vote for either or both.

The deadline for both polls is June 29, 1985. The deadline for ballots sent to Pat Conlon is June 22, 1985. Results will be tabulated as soon after the poll deadline as possible, and will be released as they become available to anyone wishing to phone. Please rate only North American zines, subzines, and GMs; though any readers or players living outside North America are welcome to participate. Send all ballots to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226, USA or Pat Conlon, Box 17014, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70893, USA.

CHANGES AND OTHER NOTES PERTAINING TO THIS YEAR'S ANNOUNCEMENT:

Due to the turmoil surrounding the change of pollsters this year, I have attempted to keep procedural changes to a minimum. Nonetheless, we do have a few:

There is no "official" proclamation against grudges votes this year. As a voter, you may vote using any criteria that you deem fair and reasonable. Some people tend to ignore such a restriction anyway, as Randolph Smyth mournfully pointed out after last year's poll. So the restriction was unenforceable -- and in my opinion, unrealistic as well. That is, I believe that the quality of a zine (or the voters' opinions thereof, which is after all what the poll is supposed to measure) CAN be affected by the publisher's ethics or his stance regarding feuds -- the basis of most grudge votes, if you will. Vote as you see fit.

Anyone who has participated in the Diplomacy hobby since April 1, 1984 is eligible to vote.

I will be discounting the top and bottom 10% (as opposed to last year's 8%) of the votes cast for any given zine, subzine, or GM. This figure will be rounded down, so that zines (etc.) receiving fewer than ten votes will not be subject to this provision. I believe that Randolph applied this lopping-off procedure only to the zines last year; I'll be applying it to the subzines and GMs as well -- but only in determining the "averaging" scores, NOT in forming the preference matrix. Which brings me to...

The preference matrix. Randolph had initially planned to come up with a preference matrix for the zines last year, and generate two lists. This ended up not working out; this year I plan to draw up a preference matrix for zines only, and generate a score for each zine. The preference matrix scores will then be averaged with the zines' "averaging" scores to produce a single final list.

See page 9 for my comments.

In addition to providing a second list of scores to be combined with the zines' mean scores, the preference matrix should prove to add interest to the poll results by itself, as it will be portrayed in graphic form. I have devised a formula which will translate a zine's raw score from the matrix to a number ranging from 0 to 10, so that the combining of the lists will be practical.

There may be other embellishments to the presentation of the results, depending on what I can dream up to make the final product more interesting to the readers. We'll see.

A few clarifications regarding specific publications and GMs; as mentioned in the GM poll announcement, be sure to distinguish between the two Ron Browns if you vote for either or both. Treat Whitestonia as a zine, Kathy's Korner as a subzine (to keep the status quo from years past.) The editor of Bad Doggie treats that product as a subzine even though it sometimes appears separately from the parent zine; therefore the poll will tabulate BD as a subzine. Ditto for Orphan City; treat it as a subzine.

The cutoffs for inclusion in the main lists will be the same as last year's: ten votes for zines, five for subzines and GMs. Zines which do not make the main list will not be included in the preference matrix.

A clarification to the rule that you must have seen more than two issues of a zine in order to vote for it: if you were supposed to see more than two issues of a zine but did not (i.e. because the publisher has not published regularly), then you may still vote for that zine. I can think of one or two "active" publications that fall into this category; sorry, guys, but being grossly irregular ain't gonna get you off the hook around here if the voters wish to send you a message...

The Conlon Arrangement: Voters who for any reason do not wish to send their ballots to me (Bruce Linsey) may send them instead to Pat Conlon, whose address appears with the announcement above. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR BALLOTS GOING TO PAT IS A WEEK BEFORE MY DEADLINE. This is so that Pat will have time to transcribe the ballots and send them to me by the poll deadline. I will not know who voted how among those ballots received by Pat -- he will be copying them onto blank, unsigned ballots which will then be sent on to me. However, he will be providing me with a list of names so that I can 1) check to make sure no one voted twice, and 2) publish a list of all people who voted.

After the poll results are tabulated, I will be sending all of the ballots (or copies thereof) to Pat, who will verify the results if necessary.

For ease in voting, I suggest that voters use the official ballots which will accompany this mailing (and I'll be very grateful to those publishers who choose to print the ballots); but of course this is not required.

Any questions on the voting procedure should be directed to me.

The Runestone Poll is the oldest and most highly regarded of the Diplomacy hobby's polls. It is my intention to maintain this status by publishing the results accurately, impartially, promptly, and in a (hopefully) interesting manner. I ask each and every member of the hobby to do his or her part by getting out there and voting. May the best publications -- and GMs -- win!

See page 9 for my comments.

1985 RUNESTONE SUBZINE POLL OFFICIAL BALLOT

BAD DOGGIE	EXPLETIVE DELETED	MeANNderings
THE BEHOLDER	FATHER KNOWS LESS	MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT
BENZENE	FEMME FATALE	ONLY YESTERDAY
BETTY DALY'S SUBZINE	FEUDETTE	ORPHAN CITY
THE BOOB REPORT	FIAT BELLUM	PERLMUTTER'S REVENGE
BOTTOMS UP	FNORD	PHYLLIS'S PYRAMID
BUT I'M HAPPY	FOOT IN MOUTH	SAVOLINNA
BUTTER BATTLES	GALIMATIAS	SCREED
CHOMPS & MIAMS	HARE OF THE DOG	SEX APPEAL
CONFERENCE CALL	HIGH PLAINS GONZO	SHADOWPLAY
CORN OFF THE COBB	HUMBOLDT	THE SPACE VIKING
CUBISTS' CORNER	KATHY'S KORNER	STRANGE DOINGS
DAYLESFORD	KNOWN GAME OPENINGS	SUBMARINE WARFARE
DEBI'S FILLER	THE LITTLE DIPPER	TEMPORARILY DELAYED
DIPLOMACY BY MOONLIGHT	MAGGIE'S ZINE	THE TOAST OF PHILADELPHIA
THE ECHO OF DOOM	MAGNIFICENT ?	VERTIGO
E*S*A*D	MALAGUEÑA	VICIOUS HATE SHEET

(Blank spaces are for any I've neglected to list.)

1985 RUNESTONE GM POLL OFFICIAL BALLOT

(Please list GMs alphabetically by surname, going down the columns.)

Signature _____

I participate in the Diplomacy hobby by _____

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE VOTING! Send this ballot to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226 U.S.A. or Pat Conlon, Box 17014, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70893 U.S.A.

QUESTION: Would you like to see non-North American publications and
GMs included in the 1986 Runestone Poll? (Please check one response.) yes no don't care

NO. 3

JOIS|JOEX

1985 RUNESTONE ZINE POLL OFFICIAL BALLOT

ALPHA & OMEGA	EXCELSIOR	PERELANDRA
ANDUIN	FESTUNGS HOF	POLITESSE
THE APPALACHIAN GENERAL	FEUILLONIST'S FORUM	PONTEVEDRIA
APPALLING GREED	FLICK OF THE WRIST	THE PRINCE
THE ARMCHAIR DIPLOMAT	FOL SI FIE	PROTOZOAN
BERSAGLIERI	FROBOZZ	RAGING MAIN
BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA	THE GAMER'S ZINE	REBEL
BOAST	GIVE ME A WEAPON	REDWOOD CURTAIN
THE BROADSIDE	GRAUSTARK	RETALIATION
BUSHWACKER	HAI! JIKAI!	SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS
THE BUZZARD'S BREATH	HANSARD	SNAFU!
THE CANADIAN DIPLOMAT	HOOF AND MOUTH	SO I LIED
CATHY'S RAMBLINGS	HOUSE OF LORDS	STABBACK
CHEESECAKE	THE INNER LIGHT	TACKY
COAT OF ARMS	IRKSOME!	TER-RAN
COMMAND	ITALIANO PRISE	THIRTY MILES OF BAD ROAD
THE CONCERT OF EUROPE	KAISSA	TORPEDO
COSTAGUANA	LIBERTERREAN	TOUCHE
D-DAY!	LIFE OF MONTY	THE VOICE OF DOOM
DIPLOMACY DIGEST	LONE STAR DIPLOMAT	WHITESTONIA
DIPLOMACY WORLD	MACABRE	WHO CARES?
DIFLOMAG	MAGUS	WINSOME LOSESOME
THE DIPLOMAT	MIDLIFE CRISIS	THE WORDWORKS
DIPPY	MIKE'S MAG	XENOCOGIC
THE DOGS OF WAR	MURD'RING MINISTERS	ZOMBIE FLESH
DOWN THE TUBES	NO FIXED ADDRESS	
EPGLART	NORTH SEALTH, WEST GEORGE	
THE ELECTRIC PENGUIN	NOT NEW YORK	
EMHAIN MACHA	OMNIPOTENT	
END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS	THE ORPHANAGE	
ENVOY	OUINIPIQUE	
EREHWON	PARANOIACS' MONTHLY	
EUROPA EXPRESS		
EVERYTHING		

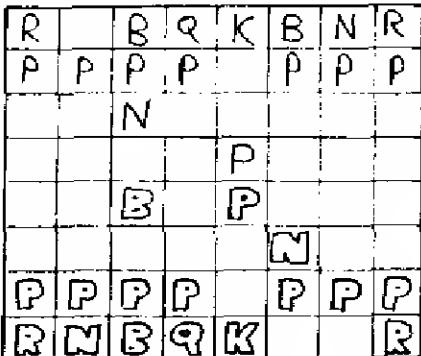
(Blank spaces are for any I've neglected to list.)

Signature _____

I participate in the Diplomacy hobby by _____

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE VOTING! Send this ballot to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226 U.S.A. or Pat Conlon, Box 17014, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70893 U.S.A. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE POLL RESULTS BY MAIL, enclose \$1.00 U.S. (to Bruce Linsey). (Results will include a complete statistical analysis, preference matrix, etc.)

Sorry for the quick report this time.
Blame LepreCon. Me, I'm thankful....

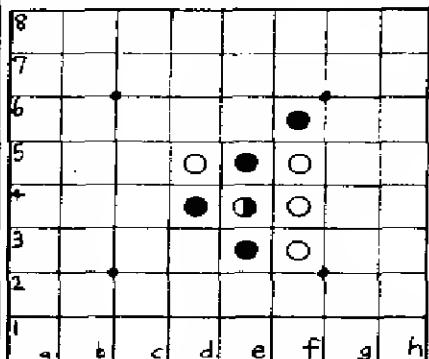


CHESS

White Black
(me) (you)

1 P-K4 P-K4 Arsenault, Waeeler, Minshall, Davies
2 N-KB3 N-4B3 and Lorber voted P-K4 for the first
3 B-B4 ??? move. Button, Minshall and Corbin
voted N-4B3 for the second.

Leaders: Minshall 2
7 tied with 1

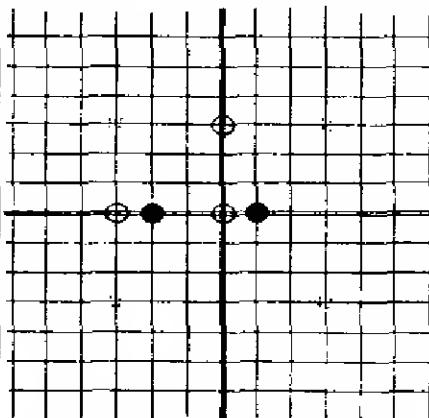


OTHELLO

Black White
(me) (you)
1 f4 f3
2 e3 f5
3 f6 ???

Problems here, mostly from the fact that I forgot to flip the only disc I outflanked last time, the one at e4. The Othello rules say that if this occurs, the other player may correct if he wishes. My move is f6 regardless. Votes with moves next time, please. No vote equals 'flip it, please!'

Leaders: B. Becker & Minshall tied with 2
Waeeler, Hutton, and Corbin 1



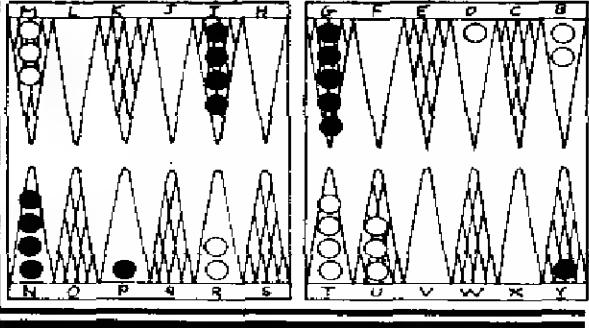
PENTE

White Black
(me) (you)
1 O R1
2 L3 L2
3 U3 ???

Oh God, did I really make that awful move last time? Let's have a few more than Bill Becker, Conrad Minshall, and Steve Hutton. Conrad leads 2-0 over the others only because his letters set here the earliest. I would say this is the best chance to pick up some free X's, so let's hear from you.

Leader: Conrad Minshall 2

BACHGAMMON was the most popular, with votes this time by Hutton, Becker, Minshall, Corbin, Richmond, and Barnes. 10(1) tied with



White Black For the first
(me) (you) move, I had votes
roll move roll move for N-I from...
6-3 MP MS 3-2 N-I Brown, Davies, S.
13-2 RU SU 6-3 Y-P Becker, Krukowski,
1-1 A-D TU 5-3 ??? and Arsenault.

Conrad Minshall asks: what is my incentive to double? (Not much, now) Anyone want to match the stakes with their sub-balances? Just tell me...

MOST OF THE POST

It is by no means the VoD or NFA style, but as I've not had any complaints about it yet, I'll continue this letter column in the style I used in #2. Don't forget to check the back of your mailing cover—that's how I answer letters that don't get into this column for one reason or another. Sooner or later I expect to have this down to a science so everybody gets at the very least a scribbled "cheers" or something.

So, what 'ave we this time?....

SEAN MCGONIGLE: My dear Bruce,

Thanks for your letter of 27 January, and for Excelsior which arrived here ((Papakura, New Zealand)) yesterday. I was shocked to discover that you have only found out about Bacardi Rum—Fruit Daquiris are a staple of my diet, along with Martinis.

BM: But how much of your diet are they really, Sean? I mean 'D' is nowhere near 'B' on my typewriter... After #2 came out, I was thinking about changing the title to Alcoholic Weekend, in reverence to the 16 oz or so of Bacardi I polished off preparing it. This time I've not had time to obtain a new bottle, so I suppose the quality is suffering badly.

I bet there's nobody else in DipDom who specifically states Rum & Pepsi (NOT Coke) in ordering drinks.

DENNIS QUINE: I have not played Diplomacy before, except many hours of so solitaire and a few two-handed. I'd like to get into a real game, either from scratch or as a stand-by.

BM: I found this interesting, since that's pretty much my pre-Hobby Dip experience as well. I used to play solitaire by choosing a random order for the moves each season. Usually the winner was the luckiest Power. I know one thing though: you'll certainly enjoy playing in a seven-player postal game if you've never had the experience of playing real-Dip before.

Dennis was the first to respond to Rod Walker's ad for me in Pont-evedria; I don't think he got the mass-mailed sample of #1, believe it or not. I thank Rod for taking the extra time to include XL in Pontavedria, especially since time is apparently one of Rod's endangered species these days, and even more so as I don't recall sending him a form for the listing.

TRAVIS LASTER: Thanks again for my sample. (Which of those guys gave you my name?) I'll be looking for XL in my mailbox.

BM: A few have asked about the McIntyre-mass-mailing list, or the Gang of 400. I used lists from the following sources to amass the array of addresses:

No Fixed Address #27 28
Sleepless Knights address list
Fol Si Fis #159
Europa Express #40
Magrathea #8-9, or was it #7-8?
DW Publishers Survey #14
Conference Call
Snafu! #45

a list of VoD pubbers not mentioned above, provided by Brux Linsey players in my international game, D501 in Dolchstoss
Foreign pubbers whose addresses were in the ISE material I was sent.

This totals about 350 or so. The rest I keep around for people in future who may want a copy of #1, or the original houserules.

ROSIE ROBERTS: Thank you for Excelsior: it seems to be very nicely done. Where does the fancy typeface come from? ... Do I qualify for three free issues by naming the Mozart Clarinet Concerto (clarinet's opening theme)?

BM: I really shouldn't, because I didn't get your letter until after the

deadline, but since the post office has had troubles, and your letter was the only correct answer to the excerpt, and it came all the way from Adendorf, West Germany, and because I was so ruthless in taking Hol from you in D501 (I'll give it back, promise....), all right. Oh, it's five issues you get, not three. I use letter-press from Mecanorma. There's a store in Vancouver that carries over four hundred different typefaces. The two I use for XL are called Dubheldik (maethead), and Peignot Bold (headlines). I also use Cooper Black for Conference Call, and do up the maps in good ol' Helvetica Light. It's quite simple, really. You just put the sheet over the page and rub the letter onto the page. If I remember I'll send you some Q's that I'll never use.

BRUX LINSEY (with red-pencilled exhortations to "Print this sentence"): In my opinion, the most interesting part of your zine was your houserules. They are reasonably comprehensive, covering about 40% (!!!) of the situations that ought to be covered, and very well organized.

BM: What about rule 4.41? I should think that covered the other 60% of situations. There are a lot of situations that require a GM's discretion. I don't think GMing is a straightforward job you can program into a computer and forget it. For example, extending the deadline. There's precious little on that in the houserules, because I want to use my discretion on that sort of thing. ALBINONI was delayed mostly because of the poor mail service lately due to the averted strike. This is not the kind of decision a GM with rigid HR's can make. Also, many are put off by excessive houseruling, though I think that's a bit harsh. Anyhow, thanks for the compliment, and the courtesy copy of your HR's, which I consulted extensively in forming the XL ones.

CHARLES ARSENAULT: Letter: About the credit for wins and draws.

I want to propose a new system of credits for game endings. Instead of the conventional win/draw points: 1 for winning, $\frac{1}{2}$ for a two way draw, $\frac{1}{4}$ for a four way draw, etc.

It seems that this situation doesn't reflect exactly the true situation. For example, a three-way draw between England (15), France (10), and Turkey (7). To give Turkey the same credit as England is, as we say in French, "hiaisé". I think one has to consider three things to judge the diplomatic skills of a player:

1. How long he stays in the game.
2. How many centres he owns at the end.
3. How many players are sharing in the draw.

Here's how I would see it: total years played (max 10) plus number of centres under your control at the end (max 18) plus result bonus (in which a win is worth 10, 2-way 5, 3-way 2, 4-way 1). (Your suggestion to divide this total by 10 makes no difference) So, in the example, if the game ended in 1912: Turkey 19, England 27, France 22 are the scores. I think that system would be more appropriate to make a classification of the players.

BM: As with all rating systems, there are problems with this one. Generally, the problem with a rating system (any system) is that everyone sees the game differently—why should I submit myself to anyone else's priorities but my own, just for the sake of ratings? (It's much easier to take a 'who cares' attitude on this when you're as bad a Dip player as I am!) Specifically, with your own system, I see one major fault right away: a player who has achieved a winning position early on may decide to wait to 1910 to finish them off just to get the extra point or two. Similarly, a game which becomes hopelessly stalemated early may be deliberately bogged down while the surviving powers wait until they've amassed all the points they can get from the draw. Any other comments, readers?

PIERRE TOUCHEUR: I am sending you ISSN from NLC (National Library of Canada). This serial number will be a first step for Excelsior. All you have to do, send your name, the first issue of XL and they will send you your ISSN ((International Standard Serial Number)). It costs nothing

to receive it. Anyhow, please do it.

BM: Is this the law speaking? The pamphlet you sent me says in part, "The ISSN should be printed on all issues of a serial, on the top right hand cover of the front cover, preceded by the letters ISSN." Why don't the other Canadian pubbers have one then? In view of the recent court action by the government against Ernst Zundel (a Toronto publisher, who published a pamphlet called Did Six Million Really Die, and now faces a jail term and possible deportation for 'promoting racial hatred', despite the rallying cries of freedom of speech/the press this seems to overlook.), I think it's understandable that I be told just why the government wants to put XL in its files. I'd have no trouble with this at all if I knew why it was necessary. If indeed it is.

WALLACE NICOLL: At the moment we are seeing a lot of new zines (Doug Rowling and I took over Psychopath from Mike Dean and renamed it)((it's now called Prisoners of War)) based on previous trades. I personally do not think you can judge a zine simply from one issue. Could I propose a sample period of six months, at the end of which we can decide to continue or not. Would you object to the zine coming surface mail instead of air?

BM: At this point I have a trade agreement with five zines from overseas, and as I don't play in any of them, surface mail is fine by me. But I can't send XL surface mail, because it appears not to exist in Canada. However, I find the surface mail gets here as fast as my first class stuff gets there!!

RON "SNAFU" BROWN: Let me express my profound sympathy...after a year or so of publishing you'll know what I mean.

BM: And he did!! With a sub cheque, and a nicely helpful letter, interspersed with a few compliments about XL. This is sympathy? Best kind I've ever been lucky enough to receive. Despite all the times BRUX has told me how much XL reminds him of Snafu, I know I'll be going in circles until I get a typewriter that is less grungy than this monster. I get this-cheerfulness from yours, Bruce Linsey's, and Mark Borch's Tws, that defies explanation. Oh, Richard Sharp's proportional spacing model is another good one. I'm afraid the Carter C64 printer leaves me flat and neutral, and this one: I wouldn't even consider trying to make an ally with it!

FRED DAVIS: Glad to see there was no Canadian Postal Strike.((You're glad, you should have seen me when they told me at the printers;!!)) We're using the ugly "D" stamps on domestic mail, but we can't put them on foreign mail, not even to Canada. From time to time, other Canadian pubbers have reported that the earlier temporary stamps ("B" and "C") sometimes slipped through anyway. So, let us know if you receive any mail from the U.S. bearing "D" stamps.

BM: So that's why I'm getting all these Jerome Kerns and Igor Stravinskys on the incoming stamps! I thought it was a symbolic gesture. What a disappointment. Yes, I have received a couple of those "D" stamps. I don't remember any bad delays being associated with them, but then I've associated all of this month's bad delays with the sudden influx of work associated with the avoidance of a possible strike up here. I know that I did a lot of mailing when I found out there wouldn't be a strike, and I held back a few letters until I was sure.

MIKE BARNO: "Friend" is not f-r-e-i-n-d!! Reminds me of when I typed some of Tom Swider's material and I could not break him of the habit of spelling "hobby" h-o-b-b-i-e....So you program in PASCAL, eh? Do you have a computer? (An Atari?)

BM: Do you have any idea how much correction tape I go through an issue? The sub fee could justifiably be raised for that alone!! Around the day before printing I say 'what the hell' and let it all hang out. But I do have a problem with friend. I will own a C64 in two weeks; more next issue.

The ALBINONI CHRONICLES

Excelsior's first Diplomacy game, ALBINONI (yes, I learned the correct spelling...) has been delayed by concensus. New deadline is May 10, 12:01 AM if phoned in. (That's a formality. I'm never home by then.)

ALBINONI players

ENG: Bill Shirley, 618 Main St., Yarmouth NS, Canada B5A 1J9,
GER: Charles Arsenault, 4490 St. Kevin #7, Montréal PQ, Canada H3T 1H9
RUS: Kevin Brown, 100 Patton Dr., Warner Robbins GA, USA 31093
TUR: Melinda Holley, P.O.Box 2793, Huntington WV, USA 25727
AUS: Michael J. Ditz, 5785 Danube Way, #C, Orlando FL, USA 32807
ITA: Stephen J. Dycus, 3450 Koring Rd., Evansville IN, USA 47712
FRA: Bob Krukowski, 5339 W. Eddy, Chicago IL, USA 60641

A few words on Tomaso Giovanni Albinoni are in order, as they may very well serve to provide strategic inspiration during the game.

In comparison with other composers, there isn't much juicy gossip on Tomaso Giovanni Albinoni. Considering what I did find in one trip to the library, this is quite amazing, for he seems to have lived a rather unquieah life, considering the times in which he lived it.

Tomaso was born in Venice on June 14th, 1671, the eldest of the family. Despite the financial advantages this would surely bring, he was determined from the start to go it alone, to be musically a dilettante: a man of independant means.

As a composer, he was never struggling for recognition. In the age of the Opera, he wrote during his lifetime fifty of them, and saw them performed throughout Italy, often in his presence. If his extensive travels throughout Italy (why anyone would become tired of Venice is beyond me) are any indication, he certainly was never under any serious financial atrains, as were composers of later eras.

In 1705, presumably on a visit to Naples to see a performance of one of his works, he married the operatic soprano Margherita Rimondi. The first half of the eighteenth century was truly the "age of the 'primadonna'", so it is amazing beyond belief that this obviously high-profile marriage would get such little historical recognition. Especially when 'La Salarina' (her opera nickname) was, at 21, thirteen years younger than our hero Tomaso!!!

Four years later, Papa Albinoni passed away, and the family business was passed on to his four sons in most unusual manner. Tradition demanded that Tomaso, the eldeat, be left in at least partial control. But Papa Albinoni went furthur, leaving the maintenance of the business to his younger sons, while requiring that one-third of the profits be given to Tomaso. (Tomaso, as a token gesture, was left one shop) Perhaps his brothers became disgruntled at having to work for their already well-off sibling, because we find out that the business was lost in a lawsuit a few years later.

Easily the most scandalous affair involving Albinoni occurred in 1722. News of his musical prowess had spread to southern Germany, and he was summoned, or perhaps invited might be a better word, to Munich to conduct (which in those days meant something closer to 'supervise') performances of his works at a festival surrounding a royal marriage. He appears to have been a great hit, except for the fact that nobody was sure that it was indeed he!! Apparently (I might add to Tomaso's great chagrin, I'm sure), there was an Albinoni imposter touring Europe at that time. Though Albinoni was well known outside Venice in other parts of Italy, his music was all that was known of him outside his country. The imposter was eventually discovered in Germany somewhere, and fled for Sweden in shame.

I only hope the game is as exciting.....

GAMESTART

Da da da DUM.

Game number two starts with this issue, and for those of you who are still scratching the ol' noggin over the first paragraph, let me explain that this game is to be nicknamed BEETHOVEN. Here's the lineup.

BEETHOVEN GM: Bruce McIntyre Zine: Excelsior Deadline: Monthly

Player	Preference	Country	Address
Robert Acheson	FGRAELT	AUSTRIA	c/o Echo Bay Mines, Lupin NWT, Canada XOE 1MO
Mike Barno ("Blarfo", GTFRAIE "deadmaat", "Gargoyle")	GTFRRAIE	GERMANY	2811 Robins St., Endwell NY, USA 13760, ph. 607-748-4490
Steve Cooley	FERTGIA	FRANCE	3551 Casamia Ave., Palmdale CA, USA 93550
Melinda Holley	TIFAEGR	ITALY	P.O. Box 2793 Huntington WV, USA 25727
Alan Stewart ("Al")	RTAFGEI	TURKEY	702-25 St. Mary St., Toronto ON, Canada M4K 1R2
Pierre Touchette	RGEFATI	RUSSIA	1 rue Georges, Masson PQ, Canada J0X 2H0
Mitchell Wageler ("Mitch")	EGRTIFA	ENGLAND	665 E 29th Ave, Vancouver BC, Canada V5V 2S1

June 7th will be the Spring 1981 deadline, UNLESS each and every one of you has orders into XL headquarters with requests to 'get on wif it' by May 10. The phone deadline is 12:01st on June 7th or May 10, but phone the night before at the latest 'cause ya won't reach me on D-Day by phone.

If anyone has not gotten a preliminary set of orders in by May 10, a stand-by will be appointed. There's no reason at all why this should cause any controversy; I expect you all want to play. Don't you?

Gar Blimey!! I've got no introduction to go on from Robert Acheson, so I shall have to do my best at guessing. I picture him as yer typical Northern Nut: hates Beethoven, is obsessed by sex (or perhaps his personal lack of same), you know the type. I mean, how much can ya say about a guy who thinks Toronto's climate is tropical??(WARNING: send me a pretty legible personal intro with yer gamestart application or I'll have to resort to this kind of stuff!!!!)....Mike Barno is a 21 year old unemployed single computer programmer who sends me examples of his work thinly disguised as 'letters'. He published The Shogun's Sword from 81 to 83. He's been playing Dip since 78, and loves parties enough to have travelled half the continent in search of them....Steve Cooley is a 25-year-old father of two, who is also a sports nut, Springsteen fan, and avid wargamer. His Dip experience is mostly PTF as this is his second postal game....Melinda Holley, undisputed Diplomacy Queen of West Virginia, is doing a wonderful job to get theee new Canadian zines started. I'm sure Acheson will say the same thing—keep sending us your gamefees, Melinda, much appreciated, I'm sure.....From Al Stewart we get the following: I am a (censored) year old (censored) working at (censored) who enjoys (censored) (DISPATCH REVIEWED BY FOREIGN OFFICE TO PROTECT INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE OF USE TO FOREIGN POWERS) I might add that I've not often been privy to such a revealing introduction....Pierre Touchette is a 21-year-old student at the CEGEP de l'Outaouais, about 20 miles from the Ottawa/Hull area. He and I are fighting for sixth place in XANTH in SM at the moment....Mitchell Wageler, the Conference Call entry to Jim Bumpas' DipJoust, is an expert in many wargames, and has extensive experience in various postal wargames. I have every confidence in Mitch's ability, as Conference Call champion, to provide you with a good game despite his relative inexperience in the Postal Dip world. After all, I've seen him play....

Best of luck to all: let the game begin. Da da da DUM.....

TRIVIA: QUIZ NO. 2, & EXCERPTS

As usual, the winner of this quiz gets five free issues to XL. Each question is worth its number in the scoring, like last time—except that this time there are seven questions. Good luck!

1. Which of the following composers was born in a supply centre? (Only one was.) Ludwig van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, or Franz Schubert?
2. Which supply center was it?
3. Two of my favorite groups, Steely Dan and Supertramp, have seen their lead singers make solo albums recently. Name these lead singers.
4. How many sittings did it take Mozart to complete the opera Don Giovanni?
5. How many sharps are there in the key signature of the rather remote key of B-sharp minor?
6. Alan Sherman's song entitled Harvey & Sheila was written to the tune of what often-heard melody?
7. Who wrote the opera Hansel and Gretel in 1893?

I figure this quiz is a bit easier than the first one, which hopefully means that we'll get more entries. However it also probably indicates that you'll need a score of at least 20 to be in the running.

I was surprised to find that nobody got either of the excerpts in XL #2. I was even more astonished to find that we had two guesses that were identical, but wrong, for the first one on page 3. At LepreCon, Michael Lee hummed that all weekend, in search of a composer to put with it. I just didn't have the heart to tell him he was a hundred years off the right track. That was the first phrase of a song recorded by Herb Alpert in the 60s entitled "A Walk In The Black Forest". The composer is some fellow named Jankowski, which is very close to what we call my landlord when he makes his numerous attempts at music. (We call him Changkowsky.) Mike Barro guessed that this was Beethoven's Third, which was interesting because he thought that the excerpt in number one was Beethoven's Third as well. Keep trying Mike, some day you'll get it. Both Blarfo and Bill Becker thought that the excerpt on page 17 was from Broadway. Bill guessed "Oh what a Fool Am I"; and Mike tried "Until we Meet Again". As I say, very close, almost had to give the five free issues away on those excellent tries. Unfortunately the answer is Clarinet Sonata #1 by Johannes Brahms. Yes that is the opening that all clarinet players have lost sleep over.

I better mention that only unidentified music is fair game here: the stuff on page 10 and page 24 is not worth five free issues, especially as the title and composer are written right there! You think that's bad: Barro tried to get five free issues for identifying the quotation from XL #1, plus Right....



The Excelsior Baseball League

We have five entries into the XL baseball pool. As far as I know, none of them are widows.

Team	Abbr.	Manager	Groups owned
Jervis St. Johns	JSJ	Charles Becker	ef7a, ghi7a, mn7a, rs7a
C.J.'s Raiders	CJR	Jerry Falkiner	ab5a, ghi5a, rs5a, wxyz8a
Endwell Euryptered	EE	Mike Barbo	cd6n, rs6n, jkl7a, rs8n
Saskatoon Wheat Farmers	SWF	Al Stewart	mn6a, opq7a, rs7n, mn9a
Benchwarmers	B	Bill Becker	ghi6a, jkl6a, jkl7n, mn7n

Since we could use a lot more entries, let me explain how it works. Say in the opening game of the season for the National League, the losing pitcher is a guy named Excelsior, and the guy who hits the winning run in (the game winning RBI) is a guy named Dip. If you have the group of players that contain either one of these guys, you either get a win or a loss (for example, the team with Excelsior would get a win) in the pool standings. The groups are divided into leagues and number of letters in name (1-5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 or more), and initial letters in surname (the groups are ab, cd, ef, ghi, jkl, mn, opq, rs, tuv, wxyz). So if you have the group rs8a, you have all the American League players with an eight letter name starting with r or s. If this sounds dumb, you're very perspective. What it does is take the advantage away from the guys who know nothing but batting averages, ERAe and slugging percentages, so anyone can play with a reasonable chance to do well.

Gamefee is now \$2, and going up. Get in while you can!

	1-5	6	7	8	9 or more	
AB	AL	NL	AL	NL	AL	NL
CD	CJR	-	-	-	-	-
EF	-	-	EE	-	-	-
GHI	-	-	-	JSJ	-	-
JKL	-	-	B	-	JSJ	-
MN	-	-	B	-	B	-
OPQ	-	-	-	SWF	-	-
RS	CJR	-	-	EE	JSJ	SWF
TUV	-	-	-	-	EE	-
WXYZ	-	-	-	-	CWR	-

To Enter:

I need the following:

- \$2 game fee
- a 10 by 10 matrix stating your preference among the remaining groups.
- a team name. Look what happened to Charles Becker, who forgot to send me one!!

There's room for 19 more, so get your entry in now. Prize is ten free issues and free entry next year; there are lots of minor prizes as well as the big one.

I didn't hear too much from you on the 'why do 6% of runs have no RBI to go with them,' so I did some research into the matter. The four ways in which a run can be scored without a corresponding RBI are:

- a) if a run is scored as a result of a stolen base, no RBI is given
- b) if a run is scored on a wild pitch, or passed ball, no RBI is given
- c) if a run is scored as a result of a force or reverse-force double play, no RBI is given
- d) if a run is scored as a result of an error, and in the scorers judgement the run would not have scored without the error, no RBI is given.

Yes, you do get an RBI if you are hit by a pitch or walked (I mean walked), as well as if the catcher is called for interference or obstruction. Yes, you do get an RBI if a run scores while another runner is thrown out (except for c) above).

I still don't see that the cases mentioned above, even in combination, could come anywhere near 6% of all runs. Any ideas, anyone?

excelsior

The REAL DIRECTORY!

No. 3

EXCELSIOR #3 Published April 6th 1985, in Vancouver BC CANADA

Page Contents

1 You didn't really think I'd do such a thing now, did you? I asked Patricia if she'd mind too much if I printed some false insults under the pretense of some April Fools deception, and I hope she isn't angry at me now! It did take me one hell of a long while to decide on what I wanted, with the end result that she is doing a last-minute job for me. Thanks, Patricia!

2 Directory?

3 Announcements.

4-9 LepreCon '85—The Article.

9 Patterns II gamestart—go get 'em, Mr Ti

9 DipGab—the Runestone poll.

10 Diplomacy—a new song by the Alan Sherman of Postal Diplomacy

11-14 The Runestone Poll info, or if you prefer,

15 My Move Your Move—boy am I in trouble....

16-18 Most Of The Post—letters from John Missionis, Dennis Allin, Travis Lester, Rossie Johnson, Brux Lindsey, Charles Arsenault, Kierke Touchette, Wallace Nisbett, Ron "Shark" Brown, Fred Mayhew, and Mike Barnes.

19 ALBINONI-game held over, GM learns correct spelling of name, and such more...

20 BEETHOVEN gamestart

21 Trivia Quiz no. 2, and answers from last time.

22 The Baseball pool—lots of openings still available...

23 The REAL Directory

24 From The Podium—new discovery in music history!!!

Third time lucky; lots of interesting stuff this time. And we're up to 24 pages, though I doubt that future issues will continue the trend I've set by adding four pages each time. It is starting to get expensive!!

I plan to continue the detachable centre, so that every month there will be something on the centre that will more or less serve as a highlight of some sort. All future April issues will contain Runestone Poll material, November December issues will have some holiday related material and a Christmas card, with possibly an XL address list, and the remaining nine issues will be split up as follows: three will contain a sort of CDO newsletter, with perhaps information on a Canadian championship game, and my attempts to put into place a Canadian branch of the ISE, and an annual census.

The other six issues will alternate between a revival of Brux Lindsey's Hobbytalk column, and responses (I'm sure there will be some.) to it. I have been told in no uncertain terms that a high percentage of my subbers will fold up and die upon reading the hate literature of the dreaded Lindsey. Bullshit. In any case, let's at least find out, shall we. Anyone who receives XL will be allowed to comment on the columns, so long as it is coherent, logical, and to the point (the whole response column will not go beyond four pages. Ever.) as well as within the deadline set for it.

excelsior = No. 3 = from the podium

Excelsior Editor Discovers Amazing New Item of Musical History!!

Everyone, I'm sure, has heard the opening bars of Richard Strauss' tone poem Thus Spake Zarathustra. (Yes you have. Theme music to 2001: A Space Oddysey? Oh yeah...) Excelsior has just learned through its network of secret musicological sources, a new theory on how this amazing piece came about. Remember, you heard it here first.

It appears that Strauss originally composed the piece for children's voices under the title Das SingSpiel Alfabeten (The Alphabet Song) until it was pointed out to him that no adult could possibly have the four-octave range required, much less a child. Thus Strauss tore up the original in a rage, but, unbeknownst to him, one of the five mysterious people designated by Strauss as witnesses was blessed with an exceptional musical memory, and a copy of the original was found among the items in his personal belongings.

This then is the original:

Das SingSpiel Alfabeten RICHARD STRAUSS

LENTO

A-B-C, D-E, F-G

H-I-J, K-L-M, N

F-S, c-r-e-s-c-e-n-d-o, Y-Z

Believe it...or not.

Bruce McIntyre/6191 Winch St./Burnaby BC/Canada V5B 2L4/(604) 299-2382
if yer lucky...